

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

May 11, 2010

Proclaim the Month of May 2010 Toddler Immunization Month

Immunizations are safe, effective, and the best way to protect infants, toddlers, families, and communities against serious and sometimes deadly vaccine-preventable diseases. The threat of vaccine-preventable diseases in Los Angeles County (County) remains real, as underscored by the recent H1N1 influenza pandemic. Annual observances raise awareness about the importance, safety, and benefits of receiving immunizations on-time, starting at birth.

The 2010 California Toddler Immunization Month theme is "Immunizations- I Choose to Stay on Track for a Lifetime of Good Health." Toddler Immunization Month offers an ideal opportunity to highlight the benefits and safety of vaccines and to provide parents and providers with accurate, timely, and understandable information that can help them make the best choices about immunizations for their children and patients.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that infants and toddlers complete a primary series of immunizations to protect them against fourteen serious diseases including pertussis, chickenpox, and the measles. These immunizations are safe, effective, and the best way to protect infants, children, families, and communities from diseases that can be serious and sometimes deadly. The County has the safest and most effective vaccine supply in history due to advances in vaccine technology and monitoring. Toddler Immunization Month provides opportunities to inform parents that a choice to vaccinate their infants and toddlers is a choice to help them stay on track for a lifetime of health.

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MOTION

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Despite increases in immunization coverage levels, about 1 in 5 children in Los Angeles County has not received all recommended immunizations by 24 months of age, leaving them vulnerable to serious, yet preventable illnesses, such as pertussis. These diseases can be especially serious for infants. About two thirds of infants with pertussis are hospitalized and pertussis fatality is highest for infants.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- 1) Proclaim the month of May 2010 as “Toddler Immunization Month” in Los Angeles County; and
- 2) Encourage residents to immunize their children and educate themselves about the importance of immunizations by calling the County’s information hotline at 2-1-1 or visiting the Department of Public Health’s Immunization Program website at <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/ip/IZclinics/clinics.htm> for referrals to free and low-cost vaccination clinics.

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